

## AMERICA and the War on Terrorism

At press time more than 38,000 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers were on active duty in support of the partial mobilization. The total number of reserve-component personnel for all services on active duty as of October was 72,269, including both units and individual augmentees.

U.S. Northern Command was activated Oct. 1, and is "responsible for land, aerospace and sea defenses of the United States," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The NORTHCOM commander will command U.S. forces that operate within the United States in support of civil authorities and will provide civil support not only in response to attacks, but for natural disasters.

As world attention turned to discussion of Iraq as a terrorist base, U.S. forces continued to come under attack in Afghanistan. A firebase near Lwara was attacked on Sept. 20, and U.S. personnel responded with mortar fire and strikes by Air Force A-10 attack aircraft. Also in September, special-operations forces conducted searches near Orgun-e and in one compound found a large arms cache that included 107mm rockets, small-arms rounds, rocket-propelled grenades, mortar rounds, and anti-aircraft weapons and ammunition.

The Army has published a revised deployment and mobilization policy on operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. The Personnel Policy Guidance, which is online at [www.odcsper.army.mil](http://www.odcsper.army.mil), outlines requirements for deploying and redeploying troops engaged in the war on terrorism, and delves into equipment, medical and dental issues, and family assistance for deployed troops.

National Guard military police soldiers and an 82nd Airborne Division field artillery battalion with howitzers are among recent arrivals in Afghanistan. Battery C, 1st Battalion, 309th Field Artillery Regiment, from Fort Bragg, N.C., arrived in Kandahar Aug. 29. Members of the 772nd Military Police Company, from Taunton, Mass., began arriving in Kabul Aug. 14 to support the 1st Bn., 3rd Special Forces Group, which is responsible for training the new Afghan National Army.

The 49th Military History Detachment, from Forest Park, Ill., is in Afghanistan documenting the planning, execution and significant events of Operation Enduring Freedom. The team is conducting interviews and is collecting artifacts, including photographs and documents, weapons and objects that may have been significant or unique to activities in the region.

Members of the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Battalion, 505th Infantry Regiment, pose with some of the RPG rounds they discovered cached in Gangikhel, a town in Afghanistan's Malikasay province.

SGT Sean A. Terry



Other members of the 505th Inf. take time at the end of the day for a little recreation — an impromptu game of touch football — at Camp Harrimon in Afghanistan's Orgun Province.

SFC Fred Gurwell





SFC Fred Gurwell

**SMA Jack Tilley speaks with enlisted soldiers at Afghanistan's Bagram Air Base during his tour of the region.**



Linda D. Kozaryn

**Active duty and Army National Guard military police soldiers who had provided security at the Pentagon since Sept. 11, 2001, stand in formation during a redeployment ceremony on the building's River parade field.**





Harriet Rice



**The Army recreation destinations available to service members include the Seward Resort on Alaska's beautiful Kenai Peninsula.**

**Alexandria, Va.**

## Finding Your "Paths Across America"

FROM the desert to the seashore, from Alaska to Hawaii, some of the most beautiful vacation spots in America are available only through the Army and its sister services. The trick is finding them.

"Paths Across America," an interactive Web site provided by Army morale, welfare and recreation, is your travel map to these "best kept secrets" that in most cases are accessible only to Department of Defense personnel.

And it's an address that's easy to remember: **[www.pathsacrossamerica.com](http://www.pathsacrossamerica.com)**.

The site opens with a map of the United States that will, with a few additional clicks, lead the visitor to military campgrounds, beaches and other recreation facilities in each state. The spots listed range from the most rustic tent sites to well-appointed cabins and lodges.

Perhaps the best feature of the Web site is that it allows visitors to discover lodging and recreation facilities in unexpected places. What soldier would know, for example, that the Cape Henry Inn and Travel Camp is a very popular resort on the water, offering rooms, cabins and RV sites just minutes away from Virginia Beach, Va.? Or that Hawaii has seven different recreation centers that provide cabins and camping sites near some of the best beaches on the islands?

Many of these recreation centers also offer equipment rentals and have programs and staffs to help visitors take advantage of other MWR activities and local area attractions.

Only parks and recreational areas are listed at the Paths Across America site, but the **Armed Forces Recreation Centers** link takes visitors to information and help related to MWR's more well-known major recreation centers around the world. — *U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office*

## Army Knowledge Online News

**Fort Belvoir, Va.**

## Free Training Enhances Performance

ALL members of the Army's active and reserve components, including civilian employees, can train in more than 1,500 information-technology, business and interpersonal skills subjects — from any location and at any time — at no cost to themselves or their organizations.

The computer-based training is available through Army e.Learning's partnership with SmartForce, and can be accessed by using an Army Knowledge Online user name and password. To browse the SmartForce catalog or to register, visit Army e.Learning online at **[www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/eLearning/smartforce](http://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/eLearning/smartforce)**. — AKO

**Fort Irwin, Calif.**

## Strykers Pass the Test at NTC

THE newly introduced Stryker wheeled infantry carrier vehicle proved to be a battlefield enabler in the Army Transformation Experiment and Exercise Millennium Challenge 2002, both conducted at the National Training Center this summer.

"The Strykers exceeded expectations," said 1LT Nathan A. Molica, executive officer for Company A, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry, from Fort Lewis, Wash. "I think they impressed everyone."

Millennium Challenge, which ended in August, was the first tactical deployment of

a Stryker Brigade Combat Team, said COL Mike Rounds, commander of the 3rd Bde, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis.

"A primary advantage of the SBCT is its ability to deploy rapidly," Rounds said. "We

**Soldiers of the Fort Lewis-based Stryker Brigade Combat Team found their vehicles to be fast, maneuverable and highly capable on NTC's vast "battlefield."**



**Soldiers**

now have a force that is light enough to quickly move into the theater and mobile enough to take on almost any enemy."

The Stryker is an improvement over heavier, slower vehicles because "it's very agile, it moves well over difficult terrain, and provides more space for personnel and equipment," said SPC Todd Lezier, an infantryman from Fort Lewis.

One of the major advantages the Strykers give soldiers is a much-needed ride to the battlefield, said infantryman SPC Coby Schwab. "We can move farther and faster and not waste any energy doing it," he said. "We're able to get onto the objective as fresh as we can be."

Another big advantage comes from the Stryker's technological capabilities, Rounds said. "Inside is a system that gives soldiers total situational awareness. They know where the friendly forces are; they have a near-perfect

read of where the enemy forces are, and can see the terrain both on a map and in real time."

Variants of the Stryker family are making debut rollouts on a continual basis, and the medical variant will be the fifth of the nine to arrive at Fort Lewis early next year.

The reconnaissance variant was expected to arrive at Fort Lewis in October of this year, officials said. The infantry carrier, commander's vehicle and mortar carrier have already touched down at Lewis. The other variants are the fire support vehicle; anti-tank missile-guided vehicle; engineer vehicle; the nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicle; and the mobile gun system.

The medical variant of the Stryker Interim Armored Vehicle was scheduled to roll off the assembly line at Anniston, Ala., at the end of September 2002, to be delivered to Aberdeen Proving

Ground, Md., for further tests. The vehicles will then head to the Stryker Brigade at Fort

Lewis in February or March, officials said. — *Army News Service*

## Career News

### BNCOC Grads Receive Equal Promotion Points

**BEGINNING** Aug. 1, all soldiers who successfully complete the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course will be awarded 40 promotion points instead of the previous four points per course week. Personnel officials said they are making the change to reduce administrative mistakes and create a fair valuation of the training for BNCOC graduates with similar military occupational specialties.

Some soldiers may at first believe they are losing points under the new system because their particular BNCOC is longer than 10 weeks, said SGM Gerald Purcell, the Department of the Army's personnel policy integrator. But that's not true, he said, because soldiers compete for promotion within the same MOS.

The soldiers most greatly affected by the change are those in MOSs that have merged, and those that will be merged, to consolidate MOSs with similar functions, Purcell said. "We're treating BNCOC as an equal element. So as we merge similar MOSs, no one is at a disadvantage." — *ARNEWS*

### Sergeant-major Board Tests Automated System

**THE ARMY'S** sergeant-major board, meeting in October, tested a new automated selection system that will eliminate hardcopy files. The board reviewed hard-copy records for NCOs in all career management fields except CMF 91, the medical field, which was selected as the test population, officials said. In that group, all records (official military personnel file, photo, enlisted record brief, and letter to the board president, if submitted) were viewed as electronic files.

The next officer files that will test the automated selection process will be the Army Medical Command colonel selection board, which takes place in January, and the February AMEDD promotion selection board for captains.

George Piccirilli, the director of the Management Support Division in U.S. Army Personnel Command, said that in future boards soldiers will be notified to review their electronic files through Army Knowledge Online, and they will be able to validate their own promotion files online. — *ARNEWS*



SPC Marc Loi